

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00004 032024Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MED-02 SCS-03 L-03 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-13 SCA-01 /042 W

-----032040Z 059130 /65

R 031622Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, GJ

SUBJ: GRENADA "MEDICAL SCHOOL"

REF: (A) 76 BRIDGETOWN 2461 (NOTAL); (B) 76 STATE 204799
KNOTAL); (C) 76 BRIDGETOWN 2502 (NOTAL); (D) 76 BRIDGETOWN
1316 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICER VISITED GRENADA DECEMBER 20-21.

2. "MEDICAL SCHOOL" PREMISES ARE A FORMER 40 ROOM MOTEL
CONSISTING OF FOUR WINGS OF 10 ROOMS EACH AND A SMALL CEN-
TRAL BUILDING (MOTEL KITCHEN, RESTAURANT), ALL OF EXTREMELY
SPARTAN CONSTRUCTION. MOTEL HAS NOT YET BEEN CONVERTED IN-
TO AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY (WALLS KNOCKED OUT, ETC.) BUT
ONLY SUPERFICIALLY REFURBISHED.

3. REPORTEDLY ANOTHER VACANT HOTEL LOCATED SOME DISTANCE
FROM THE SCHOOL WILL BE USED AS A DORMITORY. (NOTE: BOTH
HOTELS WERE INCLUDED IN TOTAL OF GRENADA'S AVAILABLE HOTEL
ROOMS CITED IN REF (D).

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4. APPARENTLY ONLY AMERICAN NOW PRESENT IN GREANDA IS
A "STEVE, LNU," DESCRIBED BY A DISILLUSIONED PROSPECTIVE
STUDENT (REF (A) AS A "MULTIPLE FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL
DROPOUT AND MORE RECENTLY, A CONSTRUCTION WORKER IN
FLORIDA." EMBASSY OFFICER WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE "STEVE"
EITHER AT THE SCHOOL OR AT HIS OFFICE NEAR THE HOSPITAL.

OTHER AMERICANS INVOLVED ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO GRENADA
IN A FEW DAYS TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS, ACCORDING TO A
USUALLY RELIABLE LOCAL JOURNALIST.

5. ST. GEORGES HOSPITAL: 100-150 BEDS, NO INFO AVAILABLE ON
OUTPATIENT LOAD. HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF IS ISLAND'S ENTIRE
COMPLIMENT OF MD'S, ALL 24 OF THEM. HOSPITAL IS POORLY RUN
EVEN BY UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY STANDARDS. UNDP ASSISTANCE
TO HOSPITAL WAS STOPPED A YEAR AGO AFTER A UNDP EMPLOYEE
(US CITIZEN) ASSIGNED TO HOSPITAL WAS -- ALONG WITH HIS WIFE --
ATTACKED AND BEATEN. WIDELY REGARDED AS REASON FOR ATTACK
WAS HIS COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DIVERSION OF HOSPITAL FOOD-
STUFFS BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN MINIMAL ACTIVITY BY SCHOOL'S OWNERS,
OPERATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SIMPLE OUTRIGHT FRAUD WITH
PROMOTERS PLANNING TO DISAPPEAR WITH THE PROCEEDS. IT IS
POSSIBLE THE SCHOOL'S OWNERS ACTUALLY EXPECT TO CREATE A
CREDIBLE MEDICAL SCHOOL ON THE ISLAND. IF SO, THEY ARE HIGHLY
NAIVE. MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITY IN EMBASSY'S OPINION IS
THAT SPONSORS EXPECT MAJORITY OF ADMITEES TO LEAVE IN
DISGUST, FORFEITING THEIR TUITION MONEY. FACT SCHOOL
"EXISTS" AND STUDENTS VOLUNTARILY LEFT WOULD MAKE IT
HARD FOR ANYONE TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST PROMOTERS.
GOG INVOLVEMENT WILL ALSO ACT TO INHIBIT ATTEMPT AT LEGAL
REDRESS IN U.S. COURTS AS WELL AS OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATE EMBASSY/
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION. WE BELIEVE GOG'S INTEREST IN SCHOOL
IS COMBINATION OF EVER-PRESENT DESIRE TO BRING PAYING GUESTS
(EVEN STUDENTS) TO ISLAND, HOPE FOR PRESTIGE OF HOSTING MED
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SCHOOL AND PM GAIRY'S WELL PROVEN PENCHANT FOR GOING ALONG
WITH POTENTIAL MONEY-MAKING SCHEMES, HOWEVER WILD.
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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